



State of South Carolina
Office of The Lieutenant Governor

André Bauer
Lieutenant Governor

Office on Aging
Cornelia D. Gibbons
Director

Media Advisory:
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**Lt. Governor André Bauer to present
\$100,000 check for Senior Center Improvements**

- **Who:** Lt. Governor André Bauer and local officials representing Sumter Senior Services, the Santee-Lynches Area Agency on Aging and other city and county offices.
- **What:** The Senior Center Permanent Improvement Project (PIP) grant program provides state funding to local organizations that serve South Carolina seniors for building projects such as the renovations at the Sumter Senior Center.
- **Where:** Sumter Senior Center located at 119 South Sumter Street in downtown Sumter.
- **When:** 1:00pm, Monday, June 27.

Background:

Lt. Governor André Bauer will visit Sumter on Monday afternoon, to visit with local officials involved in the renovation of the Sumter Street Senior Center and to formally present a \$100,000 Senior Center Permanent Improvement grant award for that project.

Established by the South Carolina legislature in 1991, the PIP grant process uses revenue from the state Bingo tax to fund improvements to Senior and Community Centers statewide. The program is administered by the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging, and provides much needed support for the network of support services available to help older South Carolinians lead active and vital lives in their own homes and communities.

According to the 2003 Report "Mature Adults in South Carolina," (www.scmatureadults.org) the growth in the state's mature adult population outpaced other age groups from 1990 to 2000, with a 33 percent growth rate. In 2000, South Carolina boasted 485,300 residents 65 and older, a number that increased by approximately 100,000 residents each decade from 1950 to 1990, and by 90,900 residents from 1990 to 2000. This was an increase of 322 percent from 1950 to 2000.

That trend is likely to continue, both in Sumter County and statewide, making the services supported by PIP and other grant programs administered by the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging increasingly important in the years ahead. Sumter county's population of individuals aged 65 and older increased by more than 22% between 1990 and 2000.

Did You Know?

- 27.9 percent of South Carolina's total population was age 50 or older in the year 2000. In Sumter County, the percentage was 25.2.
- According to the 2000 Census, 42.3 percent of South Carolina residents 65 and older had less than a high school education. In Sumter County, the percentage was 47.1.
- 13.9 percent of South Carolina residents 65 and older had incomes below poverty level in 1999. In Sumter County, the percentage was 17.1.
- Only 5.3 percent of households in South Carolina with a householder age 65 or older had an annual household income of \$100,000 or more in 2000. In Sumter County, the Median income for households with a member aged 65-74 was \$26,250. For households with a member aged 75 or more, the amount dropped to \$15,800.
- In 2000, 99,558 grandparents in South Carolina lived in the same household as at least one grandchild under age 18, and 52.0 percent of these grandparents were responsible for their grandchildren. In Sumter County, the number was 3,343.